

Sister Act:

Twins Help Keep 1CD Communicating

By Pfc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

It is an old belief that identical twins share a special connection that no one else can understand. Twins growing up can share everything from

clothes to friends to looks. But one pair of twins in Headquarters Company (HHC) of the 1st Cavalry Division share even more.

Identical twins, Pfc. Natosha and Pfc. Latosha Gates have more than just each

other's looks in common; they have the same job title, in the same department of the same unit. They are both systems administrators in the telecommunications section (G-6) of HHC, 1st Cav. Div.

"We do everything together for the most part," Natosha said. "We run together, work together and we're roommates."

The girls listen to the same music, like the same sports, watch the same TV shows and have similar interests in just about everything, they said.

Although identical, there are ways to tell the twins apart.

"Latosha smiles a lot," Natosha said. "She's always

smiling. She wears glasses and I don't always wear mine, but we have the same prescription."

Another thing they didn't share was the plan to enlist in the Army.

"Latosha came up with the idea of joining the military, and I started to look into the Navy, but I found out how much time they spend at sea," 19-year-old Natosha said. "And I don't like water. I don't even

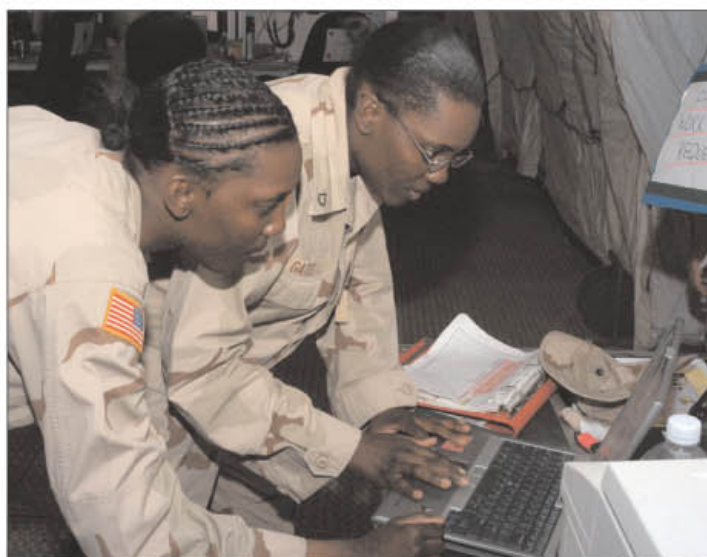
know how to swim."

Aside from the fact that the Army is a land-based armed service, a more in-depth look into the Army revealed more benefits for the pair.

"Latosha showed me an information packet she had on

"We do everything together for the most part."

-PFC Natosha Gates, Systems Administrator, HHC 1CD



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD
Identical twins Pfc. Natosha Gates (left) and Pfc. Latosha Gates (right) both work in the telecommunications section of the 1st Cavalry Division's headquarters company as systems administrators. The sisters are also roommates.

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Tra\$h for Ca\$h:

Soldiers Start Operation Iron Broom to Clean Up Al-Thawra

By Capt. Brian O'Malley
1st Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq- In the wake of the attacks in the Al-Thawra District, there appears to be a hope for a better future on the horizon. An effort is being made by Coalition Forces along with locals and

officials of the Al-Thawra District to bring pride and stability to the community.

The project is called Operation Iron Broom. Iron Broom is an effort between the Al-Thawra District Advisory Council, Coalition Forces, and the citizens to jump start trash collection, the cleaning of

major thoroughfares, and the general beautification of selected public facilities. The 1st Cavalry Division is currently heading this civil works project throughout its area of operations.

In the Al-Thawra District, the 478th Civil Affairs, attached to the 2nd Battalion,

5th Cavalry Regiment at Camp War Eagle has taken the lead in an effort to beautify the district.

"[Civil affairs] has been working in conjunction with contractors to provide equipment operators and laborers to aid the locals to repair the neighborhood streets, collect

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Spur The Moment

What are your plans for R&R ?

"My wife and I plan on a state-side or European vacation."



SSG Jeffrey Bernardino,
411 Combat Eng. Bn.

"I'm going to ride my Harley for two weeks straight."



SGT Johnny Carroll,
2-12 Cav.

"I'm going to go home and see my baby being born."



SGT Aaron Baca,
3-82 FA

"I don't care where I go, as long as I'm with my family."



SPC Davon Childress,
1-5 Cav.

Photos by Spc. Bryan Kinkade, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

New Incentive to Clean Up

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trash, and other beautification projects," said Staff Sergeant Chad Sandoe, assistant team leader for 478th CA.

The civil affairs team, also known as Team Demon, is also working with the Baladiya, Al-Thawra's municipality, to develop trash points in the neighborhood and then have the trash taken to existing landfills.

"The response for the operation has been well received by the community," Sandoe said.

Another initiative born from the efforts of Operation

Iron Broom came from a citizen from Al-Thawra. It is called Trash for Cash.

"The idea for Trash for Cash was brought up by Hussein Faliha Hussein, a contractor from the district," Sandoe said.

It is an incentive program designed to have Al-Thawra residents pick up trash in their neighborhood in exchange for cash. The concept is that Iraqi contractors will establish collection points and then issue trash bags to locals.

For the work, Al-Thawra citizens will receive one dollar for every three bags of trash returned. The project began on April 21, and it is the hope of Team Demon that Trash for Cash helps to instill pride in the residents for their community. Team Demon is currently planning many more projects for the future.

Operation Iron Broom has been in operation since April 12 and will continue until June 30, 2004. By that time the foundation should be prepared for Al-Thawra officials to assume the administrative duties of city public works.

"The response for the operation has been well received by the community."

**-SSG Chad Sandoe,
Asst. Team Leader,
478th CA**

Saturday

High: 91
Low: 68



Sunday

High: 91
Low: 71



Monday

High: 93
Low: 66



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*Fat Stacks of Cash:***Iraqi Ministry Employees Get Paid**

By Spc. Jan Critchfield

122nd MPAD

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HEADHUNTER- A comprehensive distribution of back pay for Iraqi government workers took place in the Karkh neighborhood in central Baghdad. The workers of various government ministries were compensated for five pay-less months.

More than 8,000 workers were approved for one of three stipends, based on their normal level of pay, according to Dr. Sadoon al-Zubaudi, the individual responsible for coordinating the operation with the Central Bank of Iraq, the Coalition Provisional Authority

and the U.S. Army.

The mass distribution ran from April 18 through April 22, with each ministry designated a different time for the pay delivery to help keep the event under control.

"We're well organized on paper, but on paper is not enough unless you have people who can control the crowds, because we're [paying] thousands of people," al-Zubaudi said.

That's where Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) and

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers came in, ensuring that the several billion Iraqi dinar would be distributed in an orderly manner.

"This kind of work should be expanded."

-Dr. Sadoon al-Zubaudi, Coordinator

Concertina wire directed employees to areas where they were searched, checked off a payroll list and sent to the location where they received their cash. The concrete walls of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Headhunter protected the site from the surrounding neighborhood.

"Primarily, the security was accomplished by ICDC Soldiers, but we had their backs if anything were to get out of hand," said Lt. Col. Thomas MacDonald, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry. "The unit previous to us . . . had a riot break out in basically in the same area, so we were just prepared to make sure that didn't happen."

"This kind of work should be expanded," said al-Zubaudi, "You have other departments that are out of pay, out of work. It would be a very happy thing for the people of Iraq to see that they are being cared for."

Sisters Face Challenges in a Combat Zone Together

Continued from Page 1 the Army, and I saw it as a good way to get out of the house," said the Shreveport, La. native.

The twins also plan to go to school to be nurses together after their six-year enlistment. The educational benefits the Army had to offer were hard to turn down when they signed up, just before graduating high school in May of 2002.

Now here support Operation Iraqi Freedom II, both of them are working together in the same office.

"It's better with her here," Latosha noted. "We go through the same stuff and we can talk about it." The fact that they find themselves in this situation is no coincidence. They enlisted into the Army under the

buddy program.

"The recruiter guaranteed we would have the same duty station for the first year after training," Natosha said. "In basic training and [Advanced Individual Training] we were in the same classes and everything."

During the 20-week computer systems course at Fort Gordon, Ga., one of the girls was held back to finish a portion of the course, and the other was allowed to stay at the school until her sis-

ter graduated. Then they both flew to Fort Hood, Texas less than a year ago.

"It's better with her here."

-PFC Latosha Gates, Systems Administrator, HHC 1CD

With a third of their enlistment completed and approximately two years away from home, the twins' mother was a bit nervous about both her daughters going to a combat zone.

"She was really scared about us coming here at first, but we talk to her a lot and she's cool now," Natosha said. Her sister was also a little worried when they first arrived in

Baghdad.

"At first, I was a little scared, with all the mortars," Latosha admitted. "The fear is still there, but I try not to think [about it]."

Though they face danger in this combat zone, the girls are glad they joined.

"Joining the Army and coming here is the biggest challenge we have ever had [to face] together," Natosha said.

"I think it's good being a twin, because you always have someone to talk to," Latosha added. "You're almost the same person, and you have your sister and best friend in one package. There's no better deal."



Professional, Polite & Prepared to Kill



Local Track Hopefuls To Compete at Regional Track Meet in Huntsville

► From Killeen Daily Herald

KILLEEN, Texas- There are several new athletes making the trip to Huntsville for this year's Region III Track Meet, which begins today at 1 p.m. at Sam Houston State University. But, there are some familiar faces making a return visit to Bearkat Country.

Defending Region III boys champion Shoemaker, despite the loss of standout hurdler John Ming, who injured his knee during wrestling season, has several stellar athletes at this year's event.

"Man, it's going to be a tough meet," SHS coach Cliff Bluntson said. "We're very excited. This is what we've worked so hard for all season. I think they're all ready to get after it."

The top eight preliminary runners advance to Saturday's regional finals. From there, the top two in each event make it to the State Meet, which is slated for Austin in two weeks.

Richard Sampson (triple

jump), Jerry Aponte (pole vault), Wayne Spears (100-meter dash), and Kelvin Myles (800) as well as the 400, 800 and 1,600 relay squads will all be wearing the blue and silver for Shoemaker.

For the Lady Grey Wolves Ebony Gilyard (shot put and discus) and Charise Perry (high jump) will take on the field for a shot at Austin.

Perhaps one of the teams which will give Shoemaker it's biggest test is from its own backyard.

Killeen, which finished second to the Wolfpack at the District Meet, will have several on hand for regionals.

The district champion 400 and 800 relay squads of Columbus Givens, Donald Fulbright, Jamel Jackson and Juaquin Iglesias will lead the Roos' cause.

Distance runner and district champ Matthew Forshee will compete in the 3,200 for the Roos, joining field qualifiers James Tyson (shot put),

Calvin Fleming (triple jump), Jevanni Jenkins (pole vault) and Anthony Hemingway (high jump).

For the Lady Roos, Naikeya Heath, who nearly qualified for state in the 200 last year, earned district titles in the 100 and 200 and should be a threat in both events.

KHS teammates Alexius Hamilton and Shanitta Garrett each made it to regionals in the 300 hurdles. Garrett also qualified in the 800 as well.

In the field events,



Killeen Daily Herald

The 800-meter relay team from Copperas Cove High School will compete at the Class 5A Region II Track Meet in Huntsville this weekend with hopes of returning to the state meet.

Jaquenta Richard (shot put) and Latoya Gill (pole vault) have also earned a trip to Huntsville.

The 17-4A girls' champion Ellison Lady Eagles will be well represented today. Jazmin Dickens, district champ in the discus, will be there, as will teammates Kymbra Lovan (triple jump, 100), Brittany Rosen (1,600 and 3,200), Dora Alfred (200), Alesha Walker (100 hurdles), as well as the 400 and 800 relay teams.

Harker Heights will be led by last year's state shot put qualifier Michael Shumard, who won district in the same event this year.

Today in History

May 1

► From historychannel.com

1852 Calamity Jane is born
1863 The Battle of Chancellorsville begins
1898 The Battle of Manila Bay
1923 Joseph Heller is born
1931 The Empire State Building dedicated
1941 *Citizen Kane* premieres
1960 American U-2 spy plane shot down
1972 North Vietnamese troops capture Quang Tri

Today in Cav History

1936 - The 16th Quartermaster Squadron was organized, activated and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas.
1970 - Operation THON THANG (Fish Hook) begins.
1970 -The 1st team was "First in Cambodia". The Cambodian operation proved to be one of the most successful operations in the Vietnam conflict.

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Law & Order	Saturday Night Live 17:30	SPORTSCENTER	Star Trek: The Insurrection 17:00
19:00	Headline News/ Navy/Marine Corps News	Kickin' It	SPORTSCENTER	The View
20:00	NBA Playoffs - 1st Round - Gm 5: New Orleans Hornets At Miami Heat	SPORTSCENTER	Best Damn Sports Show Period	What Not To Wear
21:00	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle	NHL Playoffs - 2nd Round - Gm 4: Philadelphia Flyers @ Toronto Maple Leafs	MLB - Baltimore Orioles @ Cleveland Indians	Trading Spaces
22:00	ESPNNews 22:30			Trading Spaces